

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A fan comprising:

a motor; and

a fan blade operatively connected to said motor, said fan blade  
including

at least two longitudinal slats, each said longitudinal slat  
comprising a longitudinal length, a width and a thickness, said longitudinal  
length being several times longer than said width, said width being several  
times longer than said thickness, said longitudinal slats being positioned side  
by side with their said widths being in the same plane to define a generally  
planar fan blade of an overall width generally equal to the sum of said  
widths, an overall thickness generally equal to said thickness and an overall  
length generally equal to said longitudinal length;

at least one hole a transverse through-hole constructed through  
an interior of each of said at least two longitudinal slats across said width  
thereof, said transverse through-holes in respective said slats being colinear  
with each other when said slats are positioned side-by-side; and

a dowel placed through said hole transverse through-holes to secure  
said at least two longitudinal slats firmly together with their said widths in  
the same plane.

2. (currently amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein said dowel further  
comprises a wooden rod dimensioned to fit in ~~at least one~~ said hole.

3. (currently amended) The fan of claim 2 wherein said wooden rod is  
secured in said ~~at least one~~ hole with wood glue.

4. (previously amended) The fan of claim 2 wherein said wooden rod  
further comprises splines or grooves.

5. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 further comprising a threaded portion on one end of said dowel for receiving a cap that secures said dowel in said hole.

6. (previously amended) The fan of claim 5 wherein said dowel further comprises a fixed cap rigidly secured to one end of said dowel.

7. (previously amended) The fan of claim 6 wherein said screw on cap is designed to retract said screw on cap and said fixed cap into said slats when screwed on to said threaded portion.

8. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 further comprising end caps for securing said dowel in said hole.

9. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein said slats are constructed from a soft wood.

10. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein both ends of said dowel are threaded to receive threaded end caps.

11. (previously amended) The fan of claim 10 wherein said threaded caps are designed to receive a tool for securing said threaded end caps to said threaded ends of said dowel.

12. (previously amended) The fan of claim 1 wherein a material is placed over exposed ends of said dowel such that said dowel is enclosed within said slats.

13. (currently amended) A fan, ~~said blade~~ comprising:

a motor; and  
a fan blade operatively connected to said motor, said fan blade  
including  
a series of thin longitudinal slats positioned edge-wise parallel  
slats to each other in the same plane;  
a hole running approximately perpendicular to said series of  
thin longitudinal slats through an interior portion of said slats from one edge  
to the other; and  
a wooden dowel configured to be received in said hole such that  
said series of slats are secured together in the same plane to form a fan blade  
generally equal to the sum of the widths of said thin longitudinal slats.

14. (previously amended) The fan of claim 13 further comprising an  
adhesive for securing said wooded dowel in said hole.

15. (previously amended) The fan of claim 13 wherein said wooden  
dowel further comprises grooves.

16. (previously amended) The fan of claim 13 wherein said slats are  
wooden.

17. (currently amended) A fan comprising:  
a motor; and  
a fan blade operatively connected to said motor, said fan blade  
including  
at least two longitudinal wooden slats;  
at least one hole constructed width-wise through an interior  
~~region of said at least two~~ said longitudinal wooden slats; and

a ~~metal~~ dowel configured to be received in said ~~at least one hole~~  
holes such that said at least two longitudinal slats are held firmly together  
width-wise in the same plane.

18. (currently amended) The fan of f claim 17 wherein said dowel  
comprises a metal dowel including an ~~further comprises~~ expanded end  
portion.

19. (previously amended) The fan of claim 18 wherein said expanded  
end portion is received by a threaded end on said metal dowel.

20. (previously amended) The fan of claim 17 further comprising end  
caps for securing said metal dowel in said at least one hole.